

MENTAL HEALTH WORKGROUP MEETING
PREFERRED DRUG LIST
OCTOBER 1, 2004

Attendees:

Bobbi Renner
Gary Mihelish, DDS
Duane Preshinger
Dan Peterson
Julie Magglio

Bobbi Renner
Chuck Hunter
Jennifer Lynch
Mark Eichler, RPh

Department Update:

Duane gave an update on the PDL State Plan Amendment. The Department is currently waiting for feedback from CMS regarding the SPA. CMS has approved seven other states to participate in the First Health National Medicaid Pooling Initiative (NMPI).

Mark gave an update regarding the first Formulary Committee meeting on September 22. The Committee reviewed approximately 8 drug classes. Duane stated that Montana would save approximately \$1.5 million if approximately 85% of clients were taking the preferred drugs in the classes reviewed. The next Formulary Committee Meeting will be held on October 27, 2004 at the MACO Bldg.

Cost Savings under the PDL - Drug Switch versus Supplemental Rebates was discussed. The contracts under the NMPI are a fixed cost for three years for the drugs. The cost savings from the PDL will come from a combination of clients switching to preferred medications and also the supplemental rebates available under the NMPI.

There was a discussion regarding the comments raised by the Mental Health community during the rule making process. Duane will email out comment document. The rule comment document was mailed out via email on October 7 to workgroup members.

Grandfathering Discussion:

Upon additional discussion within the Department and within the Mental Health community, the Department is implementing the PDL in the typical and atypical anti-psychotics drug classes in the following manner. The Department will manage the typicals using the current format in place since July 2001 in which client are required to use generic medication when available. In the atypicals, the Department will prefer all drugs currently in the class and providers can continue to prescribe medication without any prior authorization requirements. This will ensure all existing clients continue with their current drug regimens.

For all new medications (in all drug classes), the drug will be classified as non-preferred until the Formulary Committee has an opportunity to review and discuss.

PDL Education:

Duane discussed Preferred Drug list education. Under our contract with First Health, they are responsible for educating the prescribers regarding the PDL. There are 7 upcoming trainings regarding the PDL. The trainings will be held in Great Falls, Billings, Butte, Missoula, Kalispell, Miles City and Glasgow. In addition to the trainings, they are responsible to contact prescribers regarding the client drug utilization. There are a certain number of hours allocated under the contract for education.

Dan Peterson discussed the client PDL education. The Department is designing a brochure to send to all Pharmacies that will be available to clients that outline the PDL process notify clients of their appeal rights. Dan is going to work with the mental health community to design the brochure.

Off Label Drug Usage:

Currently, prescribers can continue to prescribe drugs for indications they are not currently approved for by the FDA. With the implementation of the PDL, this will continue to be the case.

Chuck Hunter gave an update on Comprehensive NeuroScience (CNS) update. Chuck provided handouts of the CNS information for workgroup participants. The Department is proceeding with CNS and will integrate that program with the current work that is being done through the Foundation and the Drug Utilization Review board.

PDL Information is available on the Internet at www.mtmedicaid.org.

The next meeting will be Friday, October 22, 2004 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the Sanders Building, Room 207. Future meetings will be held at the same time and location on November 12 and December 3, 2004.